



# NEWSLETTER

## DERBYSHIRE BRANCH

01/12



AUGUST 2012.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

## Chairman's Chat

You will no doubt know that our Branch came into being in 1947; the first meeting that can be traced was on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1947.

There is an entry in the cash book held by the Financial Manager which shows that £1.16s.5d was collected at the meeting to add to the subscriptions which amounted to £18.4s.0d., making a total of £20.0s.5d.

In September 1955 the membership was reported as 422 members.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1956 the first invitation was extended to the Chief Constable, W.E.Pitts to attend a meeting on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March. He was invited to become President of the Branch, to which he agreed and the practice continues to this day with Mr.Creedon. 90 members attended, yes 90. The meeting was held at Chesterfield Town DHQ. I cannot recall this number of members attending a meeting, since that date.

The Minutes record, "The attendance of our Chief Constable and his Address will cement the good feeling which is so noticeable between Serving members and Pensioner members of the Force that we have been proud to have belonged".

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1957, The Treasurer reported that the financial state of the Branch was good, the balance was £17.1s7d. It was reported that 'paid up' membership was approaching 500. Meetings of the Branch continued to be held at Alfreton, Chesterfield and Matlock Town Hall, general business and local matters were discussed and concluded.

The first raffle to be held for Branch Funds was for a cake and some cigarettes, it realised the amount of £2.10s.0d.

It is interesting to note that at a Committee meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1961, the first mention and proposal was made to have subscriptions deducted by the County Treasurer direct from pension cheques. 560 members agreed at that time.

Hope these facts have helped to outline the early history of the Branch.

Please continue to support our events whenever you can.

The Branch continues to register new members and I welcome them and hope that they will attend some of our social functions. If you know of any retired Officer who has not yet joined 'NARPO', please encourage them to do so.

Please remember the object of the Association, 'To safeguard the rights of members and to promote measures for their welfare, with particular regard to pensions'.



Len Smith - Chairman

## UPDATES.

As you are all aware, the Government changed our pension increase from the RPI to the CPI, resulting in a loss of 1.5% increase in our pensions. In the Annual Report I mentioned that NARPO together with other Pension Unions were taking the matter to Judicial Review. This is due to be heard on a date after the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. It was and unfortunately we lost.

The Derbyshire Branch website is being visited regularly thanks in the main to member Pete Wise who is our official webmaster. Visit us at [www.derbysnarpo.co.uk](http://www.derbysnarpo.co.uk) we have a section for 'For Sale' Items, Advertisements and a new Section for your old Photographs. All deaths and funeral arrangements are placed on the website, when they are known. There is a section called 'contact us' so if you are on the internet contact me so I can have your up to date email address. Also if you follow the link to the Main NARPO website, there is no end of information and help from Computer help to Tax advice.

Talking about tax advice, one or two of our members have been having trouble with HMRC usually paying too much tax since 2008. Below is a short statement from HR at Headquarters.

***The HR Service Centre, Leicestershire payroll and Mouchel Pensions, have recently received requests for pension/pay details from 2008 to present day from Police Officers. This is a result of refunds that have been paid to some Officers by HMRC. HR are currently trying to clarify the position with HMRC regarding these payments and until the formal guidance has been received, HR, Leicester and Mouchel, are unable to provide any information***

If there are any problems you must speak with HMRC personally.

### FLINT HOUSE

If you need to stay there, remember that if you or your spouse has dementia, they will not accept you, due to the fact that they are not registered with the Care Quality Commission. Also the charge for your spouse/partner to accompany you is £35 per day. This is always subject to review.

[Sean - Secretary](#)

## PROTOCOL RE: INJURY ON DUTY AWARDS.

A new Protocol for Injury on Duty Reviews is at present being considered by the Derbyshire Police Authority and this was discussed with NARPO and the Derbyshire Police Federation recently with a representative from HR at Headquarters. The proposals were put on the table and we were allowed to put our views forward and certain parts we opposed. The discussion was very cordial and we are very optimistic about the outcome for our members. The reviews in Derbyshire have been suspended, as we are aware, but the Police Authority have decided to resume the reviews even though the Home Office have not yet sent out any further guidance.

Briefly I will outline the main Process.

Injury on duty awards will be reviewed periodically on the following basis.

There will be a five year rolling programme unless there are exceptional circumstances. (It should be noted that just because the ex officer is due for a review a formal consideration of a reassessment may not be required if there has not been any substantial change to the degree of disablement warranting any reconsideration by the SMP.)

The Review will be initiated by contact being made with the ex officer asking that he or she complete a proforma.

The above are very briefly some of the Protocol but I have to stress this has been discussed, as we have made it clear and we do await HR to contact us.

Should anyone have any problems with this subject, then please contact me via the contact page on the website.

When things have been finalised and to our satisfaction then a further statement will be issued.

[Frank Gregory](#) (Refer to your personal copy of the Newsletter or use the contact page on the website to obtain details.)

## VILLA SCYLLA

If you've seen the NARPO item about free use of villas in Italy and the Netherlands you've probably thought, 'there must be a catch'. Well, I'm not long back from a week in Villa Scylla in Ponte Tresa, Italy and I can assure you there is no catch.

It's set in a beautiful area, right by Lake Lugano and surrounded by mountains. The Swiss border is 5 minutes by car and we found that there was free movement across the border without documents for pedestrians and drivers. The town of Ponte Tresa is in fact divided by the border. The main villa is magnificent and you do have to wonder who on earth could let out this property to strangers for absolutely no financial return. That's a question we asked ourselves many times during our week there and we are very grateful for their generosity.

The two nearby cottages are rather more limited in their facilities and internal space but they are more than adequate for two people for a short summer vacation. If, like us, you travel Ryanair with their horrendous baggage charges then you're unlikely to need much storage space anyway. The Villa and cottages sit in beautiful grounds, albeit not overly spacious. That said there is a pool that unfortunately was not in use when we were there and a tennis court with racquets and balls provided.

Ahead of the holiday we had planned day trips to Venice, the Ferrari museum, Lake Como etc.. Once there however, we quickly decided not to bother and to remain in Ponte Tresa. Our 'al fresco' breakfast on the patio took up most of the morning. Similarly a bottle of wine in the same location took up most of the evening. In between times we either walked into Town along the lakeside path or drove into nearby towns and mountains. Some of the mountain roads were particularly challenging but the views were truly spectacular, if not a little scary.

Wine by the way is dirt cheap particularly if you can get the 2 for 1 deal in the supermarket. There are two restaurants and a bar literally yards away that stay open late and the prices aren't as steep as you might think.

Our neighbours for the week were retirees from Sussex and the met but the 'job' was hardly mentioned.

There is a public promenade at the front of the property that sees a lot of people enjoying a lakeside stroll, sometimes well into the evening. Children form an important part of such family excursions, so therefore some noise has to be expected. Also the adjacent church bells ring regularly between 7am and 10pm, so ear plugs are recommended if you like a lie in.

Idyllic is probably too strong a word to describe Villa Scylla experience but it's not far off. Try 'googling' prices for accommodation in Ponte Tresa and you'll realise what a great opportunity this is to experience this fabulous region. We were fortunate in that we enjoyed great weather throughout. I would imagine July and August would be very hot.

Sean has asked that I keep this reasonable brief but if anyone is seriously thinking of going I'd be more than happy to offer tips and advice.

[Mick McElhinney](#) (Refer to your personal copy of the Newsletter or use the contact page on the website to obtain details.)

## DERBY NARPO SOCIAL EVENING.

This year's Social at Micklover Golf Club, arranged by John Louch and Arthur Padmore is to be held at 7pm., 2nd November, 2012. A cold buffet is being provided free by the Branch and will be served at 7.45pm. The Club can only accommodate 65 so it would be appreciated if members can let the Secretary know if they are attending, for catering purposes, at least two weeks prior to the Social at the latest. Sean can be contacted on **01773 609043** or via the website.

It is important that you let us know as we have to confirm the exact numbers by the 19th October.

**NARPO trip to Coventry Motor Museum - Wednesday, 11th May 2012.**



Members and friends enjoyed a day in Coventry, visiting the Motor Museum and the Cathedral.

**NARPO Trip to Dunham Massey, Cheshire - Wednesday, 13th June, 2012**

Members and friends enjoyed a glorious day at the National Trust property



## NARPO Trip to Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire – 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.



Members and Friends enjoyed a lovely day to the National Trust Property. Thank you to Michael and Ruth Watson for organizing these trips.



### CUSTODY TO CLERGY

As a child growing up on the family farm I always knew that I wanted to be a policeman. That dream was realised in 1977 when I became a cadet and in early 1979 I joined the regulars, serving for nearly 32 years, all of which was on B division, retiring on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 having been a custody Sgt at Buxton for the last 10 years.

For the first 33 years of my life I was an Anglican until I began attending a Methodist Church in 1993. I have always considered myself a Christian from childhood, attending my local Anglican Church with my grandparents. In the cadets Andy Earl and I usually attended Holy Communion every week, which was held in a class room off the HQ concourse area. Andy transferred to West Yorkshire where he became an ordained Anglican priest whilst still a police Inspector. The Chief Constable took his role very seriously and designed his uniform shirt to incorporate a clerical collar.

My preaching life in the Methodist church began when I became a Lay Reader. This was literally reading a service someone else had written. I soon became frustrated with this and wanted to produce my own work so I progressed to train as a Lay preacher. I had to follow an arduous learning pathway, which lasted around 3 years, before becoming fully accredited in 1998. I continued as a Lay Preacher until 2011.

In 2009 I had an experience that was to drastically change my life. I began to constantly think about church, waking up in the night and feeling a great urge to pray about things. I wondered if I was losing the plot as I was unable to understand what was happening to me. I needed someone to help me understand what was happening to me. I chatted this through with a minister, who came to an astounding conclusion. "I think God is calling you into the ministry." "He better not be" was my response. I was just coming up to retirement and I had everything planned out. I had an

HGV and coach licence and planned to do some part time driving. But God had a different plan for me.

It took me four months to eventually accept I was being called into the ministry. This was the start of a long and hard application process. I had to compile a portfolio of work, which ran to around 16,000 words. It was the largest piece of academic work I had ever attempted, having left school at sixteen with only my pencils; a thick ear and a wagging finger saying don't come back. But this did not put me off. Over a six month period I attended tutoring classes in Sheffield every fortnight. This led up to three stages of interviews. The first interview was in front of my own church members and it was a majority vote in my favour. This carried me through to the second round of interviews, which were held in Sheffield. This round consisted of two interviews both lasting 20 minutes each and culminated in a ten minute creative presentation, for which I had written a hymn. When it was over I waited in an ante room for their decision. Eventually the Chair of district, whose Anglican equivalent is a Bishop, entered the room. I could tell from his body language it was not good news. I had failed one for me and eleven against! To say I was fuming and felt rejected was an understatement. I now had a choice I could still continue or call it a day. At the eleventh hour I decided to carry on. It meant I was going to the next round of interviews without the backing of my church. It was just God and me. These interviews were in Harpenden and lasted twenty four hours. They consisted of three interviews and a group exercise in the late afternoon and evening of the first day. The following day was an interview with a panel of eight people. After the best part of an hour I had finished or so I thought. At this stage people were coming out of the interviews in tears at the relief from the process being over. It was emotionally draining. They then asked me to go through to an extra interview. As soon as we were dismissed I couldn't get out of the place and up the M1 fast enough. I had done my best and it was now all over.

After a week of waiting I received an email that began with the words "It is with joy and delight....." I had been accepted and the vote was unanimously in my favour.

Thank God I thought. I've made it. The next step was pre ordination training at Queens Foundation, Birmingham but that is another story.

[Chris Blackshaw](#)

**(If you have any experiences after retiring like Chris or have moved to another Country and would like to share these with members, please contact Sean.)**

## **JACK WAGSTAFF CROWN GREEN BOWLS**

Crown Green Bowlers don't forget the Jack Wagstaff Doubles Competition at Staveley MW, Bent Lane, Staveley on Sunday 19th August at 10.45am. . I would encourage all bowlers, whatever their standard to make the effort to attend, to make the effort to enter. I can assure them they will enjoy a good days bowling amongst excellent company

[M. North Sports Club Rep.](#)

## **Member John Stamp carrying the Torch in the Olympic Torch Relay at Chesterfield**



Well done John.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

The following have become members since the Annual Report

- Gary Mann.
- Helen Skinner (Widow)
- Gwynneth Olive.(Widow)
- David Bungay.
- Jenny MacDonald (Widow)
- Paul Glover
- Neville Coupe
- John Fahey
- Julia Fearn(Widow)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

***To the families, relatives and friends of our retired and serving colleagues who have passed away since the last Annual Report, we extend our sympathies and support. May all who have departed rest in peace.***

- Sgt Jeff Taylor
- D.C Gerry Cheeseman
- Doreen Wilson wife of Ex DS. John Wilson
- Mrs Marian Browning widow of Ex Sgt. Edward (Ted) Browning
- Joan Heath widow of PC Harry Handford Heath
- Sgt Robert Cecil Wheatley
- D/C/Supt Stuart Charles Olive
- Doris Blundell wife of Ex.Sgt. Kenneth Blundell
- D/C/Supt Jim Reddington
- PC Glyn Fearn.
- PC Derek James Figg
- PC William Henry Bakewell

